

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, October 29, 2004

MPDC ENHANCES SECURITY, BOOSTS NEIGHBORHOOD PATROLS FOR ELECTION DAY

The MPDC will have extra officers on duty in DC neighborhoods to help ensure a safe and secure Election Day on Tuesday, November 2. Chief Ramsey has emphasized there is no intelligence indicating a specific threat to polling places on Election Day, although Homeland Security officials have encouraged local officials nationwide to be vigilant to the possibility that terrorists could attempt to disrupt national elections. In response, the MPDC will have most sworn members working extended, 12-hour shifts on both November 1 and 2. Days off have been adjusted and leave restricted so that additional officers will be available for both neighborhood patrols and election-related security. The MPDC will NOT place uniformed officers inside polling places on November 2. Rather, the additional officers will be used primarily to staff "short beats" – on foot, bicycles and scooters – in the neighborhoods around polling locations. In addition, PSA patrols will be fully staffed on both days. Chief Ramsey encouraged all DC residents to vote on November 2, but reminded voters not to bring backpacks, briefcases or other items that might be left behind inside polling locations and, as a result, raise concerns.

① Due to the heightened terrorism alert focused on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, the Precinct 2 polling place has been relocated from the IMF to the Smith Center at George Washington University, 600 22nd Street, NW.

① For locations and descriptions of the 142 polling places in DC, visit the Board of Elections and Ethics website at:
<http://www.dcooe.org/polplaces/polplaces1.asp>

OFFICERS OF THE MONTH ARE HONORED

The holder of a \$25,000 winning lottery ticket in DC almost had his winnings stolen from him last month, but thanks to quick work by a team from 1D, the victim got his money and the officers were honored at the October CHAMPS awards ceremony. After purchasing the scratch-off ticket from a store in the 900 block of G Street, NE, the victim found it to be a \$25,000 winner, and attempted to cash the ticket at the store, but was informed he had to report to Lottery headquarters to claim the prize. As he was leaving the store, an individual punched the victim and took the winning ticket from him, as captured on video surveillance tapes, before fleeing. Officers Natwan Logan and Albert Williams responded quickly, and Lottery officials were immediately contacted by Detective William Riddle, who investigated the case. Lottery employees said two subjects were attempting to cash a winning \$25,000 scratch-off ticket at that moment. Officers responded, and although the two subjects were not the individuals who had committed the robbery, they did provide information that led to the suspect, who was subsequently identified by the victim in a photo spread. Within two hours, the detective and officers had arrested the alleged thief and reunited the victim with his ticket. Read more about all 24 of the MPDC's officers of the month for October at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2004/10.shtm>

① CHAMPS (Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) is a monthly awards program hosted by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC. The October awards luncheon was hosted by the Hotel Washington in Northwest.

① The MPDC will hold its 5th Annual Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, December 14, 2004, beginning at 6 pm, in DAR Constitutional Hall. Members of the public are invited to attend this free event.

DC LAUNCHES NEW PROGRAM TO HELP REDUCE RUSH HOUR GRIDLOCK

Mayor Williams joined the Departments of Public Works (DPW) and Transportation (DDOT) this week in launching a new program to help alleviate downtown gridlock during morning and evening rush hours. The program employs DPW Traffic Control Officers (TCOs) stationed at 15 targeted downtown intersections to direct traffic flow and keep intersections clear from “blocking the box” violators. The 30 TCOs were selected from the ranks of DPW’s Parking Services Administration and were specially trained by the MPDC in both District parking regulations and traffic direction. The Traffic Control Officers play a dual role. When not directing rush hour traffic, they will be tasked with enforcing specific regulations that have the most impact on downtown traffic, such as double-parking and loading and unloading. DDOT contributed the funds and, with input from the MPDC, selected the locations where traffic congestion is a major factor in the efficient movement of vehicles and people. The new program is one of the first initiatives to come from the Mayor’s Downtown Congestion Task Force, a group of 50 business and community leaders, as well as government officials.

- ① Read the news release at:
<http://dc.gov/release.asp?viewid=1998&pos=2>
- ① For information on other traffic safety programs in DC, visit:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/traffic.shtm>

DC SELECTED AS NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2004 WINNER

Congratulations, DC! The National Association of Town Watch, organizers of the annual National Night Out against crime, has selected the District as a National Award Winner for outstanding participation in the 21st Annual NNO celebration in August. DC placed sixth among large cities with 300,000 or more people. And the Naylor Gardens community in the Sixth Police District, which was the site of this year’s citywide NNO kickoff, was also recognized as a National Award Winner in the under-15,000 population category. This year’s NNO event was the largest ever, involving 34.2 million people in 10,325 communities from all 50 states, DC, US territories and military bases worldwide. DC’s NNO 2004 celebration included crime prevention events in all seven police districts involving thousands of participants. Chief Ramsey extends his thanks to all MPDC officers, community leaders and residents who made this year’s celebration such a success. And mark your calendars: NNO 2005 is Tuesday, August 2, 2005.

- ① Get details on the NNO Award at:
<http://www.nationalnightout.org/nno/award.html>
- ① Crime prevention is a year-round activity. For more information on how to get involved, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/pfp/involved.shtm>

NEWS & NOTES

Review, Pay Photo Enforcement Tickets Online. Motorists who receive automated enforcement tickets for speeding aggressively or running a red light in DC can now review the violation photographs online via a password-protected website. And if they choose to pay the ticket, motorists can now do that over a secure website as well. The new automated features, which are free of charge, do not replace current adjudication procedures, but are designed for the convenience of motorists. Get more details at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2931>

“Ask the Chief” on Thursday Morning. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls and emails from 10-11 am, on Thursday, November 4, during his monthly appearance on the “Ask the Chief” program on WTOP radio. Details at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/media/media.shtm>

DATA BOX	
Homicides	as of 10/29/04
◆ 2004: 167	
◆ 2003: 205	
◆ % Change: -18.5%	
◆ Closure Rate: 54.5% (91 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 10/23/04
◆ Total: 629	
◆ Drugs: 118	
◆ Weapons: 19	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 9	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 24	
Juvenile Activity	
◆ Arrests: 41	week end. 10/23/04
◆ Curfew Violations: 45	week end. 10/23/04
◆ Truants: 290	week end. 10/23/04
Firearm Recoveries	as of 10/27/04
◆ October: 130	
◆ 2004 Total: 1,655	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 10/29/04
◆ 2004: 39	
◆ 2003: 56	
◆ % Change: -30.4%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC’s Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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